FILLONGLEY, TRIBUNE BAY, HELLIWELL, SANDY ISLAND PARKS MASTER PLAN

Province of
British Columbia

Ministry of
Environment and Parks

September 1987

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This Master Plan for Fillongley, Helliwell, Tribune Ray and Sandy Island Provincial Parks is recommended for your approval.

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A MASTER PLAN

FOR

FILLONGLEY, TRIBUNE BAY, HELLIWELL, AND SANDY ISLAND

PROVINCIAL PARKS

SEPTEMBER, 1987

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I. PLAN SUMMARY

This document gives broad, long term direction to the management of the four provincial parks located on Denman and Hornby Islands (Figure 1). Comprising a typical Gulf Island environment and linked to Vancouver Island by ferry, the islands are well visited by non-residents during the summer months. Residents of the islands have a strong sense of community identity and highly valve their islands' environment and atmosphere. The four relatively small provincial parks are cherished by both local residents and visitors, particularly as natural areas. While each park has its own specific features, they also share important common characteristics and management needs.

Highlights of this master plan include the following:

- recognition of strong local interest in maintaining these parks at low levels of development.
- reconstruction of Fillongley Provincial Park campground and day use facilities to provide a more functional and aesthetic environment.
- the addition of the Fillongley Creek spit accretion to the park.
- the addition of foreshore to Sandy Island and Fillongley Parks to achieve protection of valuable marine resources and the presentation of increased recreation opportunities.
- conducting a park study of a marine park extending from Helliwell Park west to Savoie Rocks.
- emphasis at Fillongley and Tribune Bay parks on expanding the recreational opportunities for bicyclists and organized groups by providing formal walk-in camping areas.
- emphasis on a visitor services information program which informs the public about the resources and opportunities of the parks as well as such limiting factors as use capacity restrictions and specific requirements for resource protection.

II. BACKGROUND REPORT SUMMARY

The following information is summarized from the "Background Report", attached to this plan as Appendix I.

A. Location and Climate

Denman and Hornby Islands are situated close to the relatively sheltered central east coast of Vancouver Island, approximately halfway along Georgia Strait. The nearest urban areas on Vancouver Island are Courtenay-Comox (about 20 km north) and Nanaimo (about 80 km south). Denman Island is linked to Vancouver Island by a small ferry (10-15 minutes to cross). A similar ferry service connects Denman with Hornby Island.

The climate, on the whole, is moist with the majority of the 70-100 cm of precipitation falling between September and June, leaving the summer months quite dry normally. Summer temperatures are pleasantly warm, being moderated by cool sea breezes, while average winter temperatures are above freezing. In general it is a typical temperate maritime climate, with somewhat drier than normal summers.

B. Park Origins

Three of the parks – Fillongley, Helliwell and Tribune Bay – were previously privately-owned properties. Fillongley Park on Denman Island was established in 1954, following donation from Mr. Beadnell who resided and is now buried on the property. The land comprising Helliwell Park on Hornby Island was donated by Mr. Helliwell and subsequently established as a park in 1966. Tribune Bay Park was jointly purchased by the Devonian Foundation and the Provincial Government, and was established in 1978. Sandy Island park was under Federal jurisdiction until its transfer to the province in 1966 when the area was designated a provincial park.

C. Park Resources

1. Fillongley Park

Fillongley contains 23 hectares of gently sloping upland, adjoined by a 21 hectare foreshore recreation reserve. Fillongley Creek meanders through the park, forming a slough between a foreshore sandy spit and the eastern boundary of the park. Except for the clearing where the Beadnell residence once stood, the park features a mixed stand of mature coastal Douglas fir, Western red cedar, Western hemlock, and Broadleaf maple. This forest is highly significant because the park is one of the last unlogged areas on Denman Island. Principle attractions of the park are the sand spit, the undisturbed forest and the grounds of the former residence. The important planning issues involving Fillongley Park include the type and location of recreation site improvements within the park and the fact the sand spit and the attractive foreshore recreation reserve are not part of the park.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Plate 1 View North along Fillongley Creek.
Sand spit on right of photograph.

2. Tribune Bay Park

This park covers 96 hectares, of which 23 are foreshore over a broad, crescent-shaped sand beach and 73 are gently sloping up)and. The vegetation consists of about 70% forest cover, and about 30% grassland resulting from former cultivation (directly behind the beach). The forest is a second-growth mixture of coastal Douglas fir, Western red cedar, Grand fir, Western hemlock, and Broadleaf maple. Surface water, other than Tribune Bay itself, is limited to a small pond in the forest and an intermittent stream on the south edge of the grassland, near the shore. The former lodge and related buildings and facilities, including a picnic shelter and tennis courts, are located on the eastern side of the park. The major attraction of this park is the broad white sand beach, one of the outstanding sand beaches on the east coast of Vancouver Island, providing excellent family bathing and viewing recreation opportunities. Other attractions of the park include the open grasslands behind the beach and the shallow, relatively warm waters of Tribune Bay. The key planning issues for this park include questions on the provision of recreation facilities particularly for overnight use, use of the Lodge facilities end the future of the tennis courts in the park.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Plate 2 View East of Tribune Bay Park Beach

3. Helliwell Park

The park contains 69 hectares of upland. The area is gently rolling and heavily forested with Coastal Douglas fir, Western hemlock, Arbutus, Garry oak, Lodgepole pine and Grand fir. Some very large examples of mature Douglas fir and Arbutus are found in the eastern portion of the park. Near the shore, the forest gives way to attractive grasslands. Other than temporarily during the wetter seasons, there is a shortage of surface water.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Plate 3 Rock cliffs and Natural grass areas of Helliwell Park's south shore.

Major attractions of the park include:

a) an interesting irregular shoreline sloping away into clear, unpolluted waters.

b) sea cliffs along the south shore. The cliffs are composed of conglomerate rock and occasional sandstone sills. These cliffs are of high significance as a recreation feature because of their size, height, colour and visual interest.

c) natural grasslands of high quality, visual interest and excellent recreation values. The grasslands afford exceptional views across the cliffs out to Georgia Strait and Vancouver Island.

d) a provincially significant undisturbed forest ecosystem where significant examples of Douglas fir and Arbutus are found.

The key planning issues for this park include the addition of foreshore and two islets to the park, fire protection and establishing the appropriate park development and use.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Plate 4 The east coast of Helliwell Park contains attractive pocket beaches.

4. Sandy Island Park

Located off the north end of Denman Island, Sandy Island Park comprises four small islands totaling 33 hectares. Sandy Island and Seal Islets are the portions of White Spit which remain above the high tide mark. The park thus contains specialized plants noted for their ability to survive in dry, exposed conditions. There is no forest cover except for a small area of low tree cover on Sandy Island. The major attractions of this park include the high quality sand beaches, eolian landforms, special plant communities and wildlife diversity. The addition of an extensive foreshore area (White Spit) is the chief planning issue.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Plate 5 View north of the islands which make up Sandy Beach Park.

III. Regional and Provincial Context

Denman and Hornby Islands differ little from the more southerly Gulf Islands of Georgia Strait. Because of their scenic and rural nature some people have chosen to settle and live year-round on these pleasant islands while others have established summer cottages. The four provincial parks serve both island residents and visitors by conserving scenic natural areas and providing opportunities for outdoor recreation.

These provincial parks are set aside for the enjoyment of all British Columbians and visitors to this province. On these particular islands, owing to the small amount of parkland and the high recreational demand, it is especially important to ensure that these four small parks continue to provide park opportunities for shoreline recreation, natural woodlands for walking and substantially undeveloped scenic areas for nature appreciation.

In recent years local groups and individuals have expressed concern about the future of underwater resources and opportunities fronting the southerly coast of Hornby Island with many citizens advocating some form of protective status (figure 2). The study of a Provincial marine park is suggested for an area extending from Savoie Rocks to Helliwell Park and including lands and waters from the low tide mark to the 50 meter depth.

IV. Fillongley Park

A. Role of the Park

The conservation role for Fillongley Park is to protect and present high quality woodland and shoreline resources which represent the typical and special natural elements of Denman Island.

The recreation role for Fillongley Park is to provide opportunities for walking, hiking, picnicking, beach recreation, nature appreciation, walk-in camping and auto-access camping in association with the shoreline and coastal upland resources of the park.

B. Zoning

Zoning is a general means of guiding the delivery of management policies and services, as well as the development of facilities. Fillongley Park is easily accessible by road and, as a result, receives over 16,000 visits annually. The Park contains areas where park development and management will be concentrated, as well as other areas where more dispersed use and lighter development will be the rule. Two zones comprise the park (Figure 3).

1. **Intensive Recreation Zone:** Use, development, and management will focus upon the south end of the upland and foreshore. Within this area, development (day-use parking and vehicle camping) will be confined to the extreme southeastern corner of the property. Walk-in camping areas will be established in the southerly portion of the spit. (See Figure 3)

2. **Natural Environment Zone:** The balance of the park, including the majority of the upland forest, the Beadnell homestead clearing, the slough area, and the northern end of the spit, will remain primarily in its undeveloped state providing a variety of wildlife habitats. Development will be limited to the Fillongley Creek and Homestead Trails.

C. Resource Management

The following management objectives and actions are based upon the Park Act, associated regulations, and appropriate Ministry and Division policies.

1. Land, Boundaries, and Tenures

a) **Foreshore Objective:** Fillongley Park will be expanded to include adjacent foreshore areas so natural resource values and recreation opportunities are protected.

Specific Actions:

- pursue the addition of adjacent foreshore extending from the north end of the spit to the south end of the existing recreation reserve 1-6-3-19 and projecting east into Lambert Channel the width of the existing recreation reserve. (Figure 4).

2. Water

a) **Objective:** the natural qualities of water bodies in the park will be maintained, without incurring adverse impacts from park development, management or use.

Specific Actions:

- Fillongley Creek and Slough will not be changed or altered. Stream habitat enhancement projects not adversely affecting the natural channel are appropriate.

3. Vegetation

a) **Objectives:**

i) to retain the natural woodlands of this park as an evolving ecosystem.

ii) to maintain the present condition of the previously cultivated grassland area within the Natural Environment Zone.

iii) to suppress all wildfires in this park.

iv) to evaluate the effects of visitor use on the spit's vegetation.

Specific Actions:

i) keep the Beadnell homestead clearing mowed.

ii) permit fires only at designated sites.

iii) prepare a program to inventory the sand spit's vegetation.

4. Wildlife and Fish Resources

a) Objective: to retain or enhance natural conditions in the woodland, grassland, shoreline and marine environments of the park to sustain its present complement of wild species.

Specific Actions:

i) reintroduce salmonid species to Fillongley Creek.

ii) permit recreational harvesting of shellfish.

5. Cultural Resources

a) Objectives:

i) to protect significant archaeological and historical resources from disruptive development or uses.

ii) to inform the public about the history and past use of the park area.

Specific Actions:

i) determine the significance of archaeological resources in Fillongley Park with assistance from Heritage Conservation Branch.

ii) restore the Beadnell grave site.

iii) present to the park visitor a history of the Beadnell family's use of the area and the donation of land for park purposes.

iv) present native Indian history to the public.

D. Visitor Services

1. Recreation Opportunities

a) Objective: to encourage auto-access day use and destination use, bicycle destination use, boat-access day use, walk-in camping, upland walking, picnicking, and beach and shoreline recreation.

Specific Actions

i) **Auto-access day use**
Fillongley Park provides excellent day use opportunities. However, a new day use parking facility is required immediately west of the south end of the present parking lot to separate day use from the camping area.

ii) **Auto-access camping**
This opportunity will continue to be provided at Fillongley Park. Reconstruction of the existing facility will be accomplished in situ and to present capacity to make it more practical and compatible with its surroundings.

iii) **Bicycle destination use**
Walk-in camping areas will be provided at Fillongley Park near the present auto access campground to encourage bicycle destination use.

iv) **Boat access use**
Overnight anchorage will not be encouraged.

v) **Picnicking**
A formal picnicking area will be developed at Fillongley Park in close proximity to the shore and parking lots.

2. Management Services

a) **Operations base**
Fillongley Park is operated as part of the Strathcona District. The zone headquarters is at Miracle Beach, north of Courtney.

b) **Promotion**
Objective: to complement present public information media (an example is the Provincial Parks of Vancouver Island brochure) with visitor

information at the main ferry access and within Fillongley Park. The purpose of promoting this park is not to increase auto-access camping but to raise the level of public awareness about other recreation opportunities, such as walk-in camping and resource values in the park.

Specific Actions:

i) develop a Visitor Services Plan covering all four provincial parks on Denman and Hornby Islands. As part of this plan, consideration should be given to a major information shelter located at the Buckley Bay ferry landing.

ii) themes pertinent to Fillongley Park for application in the Visitor Services Plan include the Beadnell family history and park donation, the mature Douglas fir-Western red cedar ecosystem, the accreting sand spit formation and native indian history.

E. Plan Implementation

In order of priority the following actions are to be implemented.

1. initiate action to add foreshore and spit to the park.
2. initiate action for an archaeological resource inventory by Heritage Conservation Branch.
3. begin a program to determine vegetation resources on the spit and the effect visitor use has on plant life.
4. upgrade day use and camping facilities.
5. prepare a Visitor Services plan and implement actions.

V. Tribune Bay Park

A. Role of the Park

The conservation role for Tribune Bay Park is to protect and present attractive upland and shoreline resources which represent the typical and special natural elements of Hornby Island.

The recreation role for Tribune Bay Park is to provide opportunities for walking, hiking, picnicking, beach recreation, nature appreciation, swimming, boating, walk-in camping and outdoor recreation education in association with the shoreline and upland resources of the park.

B. Zoning

Like Fillongley Park, Tribune Bay Park is readily accessible by road and receives over 80,000 visits annually, most during the summer months. As such and in keeping with both the Division's recreation and conservation roles, two zones are found in the park (Figure 5).

1. **Intensive Recreation Zone:** Use, development, and management will focus upon the road access area, the beach, grassland adjoining the beach, the bay, and the area of the lodge and related buildings. Formal day-use development will be concentrated in the vicinity of the western end of the beach. The tennis court at the eastern end of the beach will be maintained. The lodge, related buildings, and vicinity are sub-zoned for accommodation, thus recognizing School District use under Park Use Permit #1295. A walk-in campground will be integrated within the permit during the summer.

2. **Natural Environment Zone:** The majority of the upland and the foreshore of the park is zoned "natural environment" to reflect light use and an absence of development.

C. Resource Management

1. Land, Boundaries, and Tenures:

a) **Foreshore Objective:** Tribune Bay will include adjacent foreshore areas as part of a marine park study area.

Specific Actions:

- conduct a park study of the potential for a marine park (Figure 6).

b) **Rights-of-way Objectives**: to insure rights-of-way (any purpose) do not bisect prime park values or create a visual obstruction.

Specific Actions:

- relocate the existing B.C. Hydro electrical transmission right-of-way in Tribune Bay Park to perimeter road system.

2. Water Quality

a) Objective: the natural qualities of water bodies within Tribune Bay Park will be maintained.

3. Vegetation

a) Objectives:

i) to retain the natural woodlands and grasslands in Tribune Bay Park as evolving ecosystems.

ii) to allow previously cultivated or harvested areas within the Natural Environment Zone to revert over time to a "wild" state.

iii) to maintain previously cultivated grassland areas within the Intensive Recreation Zone in a condition amenable to high recreation use.

iv) to suppress all wildfires in this park.

Specific Actions:

i) mow the paths and use nodes in near-shore grassland at Tribune Bay Park.

ii) permit campfires only at designated sites.

iii) evaluate the effects of visitor use on park vegetation.

4. Wildlife and Fish Resources

a) Objective: to retain or enhance natural conditions that prevail in woodland, grassland, shoreline and marine components so present wildlife and fish populations are maintained.

Specific Actions:

- recreational harvesting of shellfish will be permitted.

5. Cultural Resources

a) Objectives:

i) to protect significant archaeological resources from disruptive development or uses.

ii) to inform the public about past uses in Tribune Bay Park.

Specific Actions:

- determine the significance of archaeological resources in Tribune Bay Park with the assistance of Heritage Conservation Branch.

D. Visitor Services

1. Recreation Opportunities

a) **Objective:** to encourage auto-access day use, bicycle destination use, boat-access day use, walk-in camping, special facilities use (school districts and local community), upland walking, picnicking, and beach and shoreline recreation.

Specific Actions:

i) Auto-access day use
Tribune Bay Park contains outstanding day use opportunities. While roads and parking facilities are presently adequate at the western end of the beach, limited (15 car) parking facilities are required within the access and staging area west of the accommodation subzone.

ii) Auto-access camping
Because of existing use and the presence of private sector opportunities, auto-access camping facilities will not be provided in Tribune Bay Park. An alternative for campers will be a walk-in camping area.

iii) Walk-in destination use

Camping areas will be provided at Trib une Bay Park to encourage walk-in destination use.

iv) Boat-access use

Tribune Bay offers sheltered anchorage during periods of northerly winds. However, overnight anchorage will not be encouraged because of unpredictable winds.

v) Special facilities us e

- The buildings and adjacent grounds of the Tribune Bay Lodge will temporarily be used and operated under Park Use Permit #1295 by the Qualicum and Courtney school districts as part of their outdoor education programs. The permit runs until 1993. During this time, the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division will closely monitor this permit use to ensure public access is not compromised and that such use is appropriate in future.
- the tennis courts at Tribune Bay will be maintained by park use permit.
- the barbecue pit will be upgraded.

vi) Upland walking and horseback riding

Tribune Bay Park offers excellent opportunities for leisurely strolls, day hiking, and horesback riding. A separate horse riding trail will be designated in the upland area.

vii) Picnicking

A formal picnic area will be provided in the upland at the west end of the beach in close association with the shore and the parking lots.

2. Management Services

a) Operations base
Tribune Bay Park is operated as part of the Strathcona Zone of the Strathcona District. The zone headquarters is at Miracle Beach Park, north of Courtenay.

b) Fire suppression
Wildfires will be controlled.

c) Promotion:
Objective: to complement present public information media with Visitor information at the main ferry access and within Tribune Bay Park.

Specific Actions:

- themes pertaining to Tribune Bay Park for application in a Visitor Services Plan include past land uses, local community use of the park and special intertidal resources.

E. Plan Implementation

In order of priority the following actions are to be implemented.

1. conduct Provincial Marine Park study.

2. relocate the existing B.C. Hydro electrical transmission right-of-way to the perimeter road.

3. initiate action for an archaeological resource inventory by Heritage Conservation Branch.

4. define and develop a walk-in camping area.

5. conduct Provincial Marine Park study.

6. prepare a Visitor Services Plan and implement recommendations.

I. Helliwell Park

A. Role of the Park

The conservation role for Helliwell Park is to protect and present attractive and high quality woodlands, scenic features, grasslands, and shoreline resources which represent the typical and special natural elements of Hornby Island.

The recreation role for Helliwell Park is to provide opportunities for walking, hiking, picnicking, beach recreation, nature appreciation, boating, viewing and aquatic recreation in association with the upland and shoreline resources of the park.

B. Zoning

Helliwell Park is easily accessible by road. Most of the park will be zoned for dispersed use and light development. (Figure 7)

1. **Intensive Recreation Zone:** development will focus upon the present road access and parking area. Vehicle access will be limited to the northwest corner of the park.

2. **Natural Environment Zone:** the majority of the park, including foreshore when it is added, will be lightly used. Development will be limited to St. John's Point Trail.

3. **Special Feature Subzone:** the area designated by this status covers the rock bluffs fronting the southerly shoreline of Helliwell Park. These rock bluffs are a significant natural feature with high quality scenic value.

C. Resource Management

1. Land, Boundaries and Tenures

a) **Foreshore Objective:** Helliwell Park will include adjacent foreshore areas.

Specific Actions:

i) The foreshore off Helliwell Park is part of the marine park study proposal (fig. 6). The study area would extend from Helliwell Park west to Savoie Rocks and include lands and waters from the low tide mark to the 50 meter depth.

ii) Acquisition of islets off St. John's Point.

2. Water Quality

a) Objective: the natural qualities of water bodies within Helliwell Park will be maintained.

3. Vegetation

a) Objectives:

i) to retain the natural woodlands and grasslands in Helliwell Park as evolving ecosystems.

ii) to suppress all wildfires in this park.

Specific Actions:

i) keep the cliff-top grassland at Helliwell Park free of invading trees or shrubs.

ii) determine the effects on the grassland vegetative cover caused by foot traffic.

iii) except for the access road and parking lot, prohibit automobile, bicycle and horse traffic in the park.

iv) prohibit all fires in Helliwell Park.

4. Wildlife and Fish

a) **Objective:** to retain or enhance natural conditions that prevail in woodland, grassland, shoreline and marine components, so the present complement of wild species inhabiting Helliwell Park is sustained.

5. Cultural Resources

a) **Objectives:**

i) to protect significant archaeological resources from disruptive development or uses.

ii) to inform the public about past human use of Helliwell Park.

D. Visitor Services

1. Recreation Opportunities

a) **Objective:** to encourage auto-access day use, boat access day use, upland walking, hiking, picnicking, viewing, beach and shoreline recreation, nature appreciation and underwater recreation.

Specific Actions:

i) **Auto-access day use**
Day use opportunities at Helliwell Park are numerous. Road access and parking facilities are presently adequate.

ii) **Auto-access camping**
Auto-access camping will not be provided at Helliwell Park but will be encouraged by the private sector.

iii) Upland walking and hiking

Helliwell Park offers excellent opportunities for easy strolls and day hiking. Of particular interest are the paths along the grassland areas and through the old growth Douglas Fir stand on the north side of the park. These paths and routes are sufficiently well developed at this time to make new trails or improvements unnecessary.

iv) Viewing

The viewing opportunities in Helliwell Park are among the most significant in the B.C. park system. Unobstructed views of Georgia Strait and Vancouver Island are obtained along the grassland slopes fronting the south and east shores of the park. To maintain the high quality viewing from Helliwell Park no new permanent park facilities will be approved within the grassland slopes of the park.

v) Underwater Recreation;

Diving is an important recreation activity associated with Helliwell Park's foreshore. Designating the foreshore fronting Helliwell Park as a marine park under the Park Act should protect this activity. Boat access is the most common and practical way for divers to reach these sites.

2. Management Services

a) Operations base

Helliwell Park is operated as part of the Strathcona District.

b) Fire suppression

Wildfires will be controlled.

c) **Promotion**

Objective: to complement present public information with good quality visitor information at the main ferry access point and within Helliwell Park.

Specific Actions:

- themes pertaining to Helliwell Park for application in a Visitor Services Plan include the Helliwell family donation of land for park purposes, the special Douglas fir-natural grasslands ecosystems, and the rich foreshore resources fronting the Park.

E. Plan Implementation

In order of priority the following actions are to be implemented.

1. initiate action to acquire islets off St. John's Point.
2. implement marine park proposal study.
3. prepare a Visitor Services Plan and implement recommendations.
4. initiate monitoring of user impact on vegetation.

I. Sandy Island Park

A. Role of the Park

The conservation role for Sandy Island Park is to protect and present special natural and shoreline resources characterizing White Spit north of Denman Island.

The recreation role for Sandy Island Park is to offer opportunities for camping, boating, picnicking, walking, viewing, beach activities and nature study.

B. Zoning

This park is zoned Natural Environment to reflect the need to keep the park in its natural state.

C. Resource Management

1. Land, Boundaries and Tenures

a) **Foreshore Objective:** to expand Sandy Island Park to include adjacent foreshore areas.

Specific Actions:

- Pursue the addition to Sandy Island Park of foreshore areas as shown in Figure 8.

2. Vegetation

a) **Objectives:**

i) to retain the natural woodlands and plant associations in this park as evolving ecosystems.

ii) to protect the forest cover on Sandy Island from further user vandalism and damage.

Specific Actions:

i) Monitor campfire use in the park. Designated fire sites may be required in future.

ii) Monitor visitor use impacts on the existing plant communities to insure protection of sensitive and rare plant species.

iii) Place information signs in the undeveloped campground area to reduce vegetation damage.

3. Wildlife and Fish Resources

a) **Objective:** to retain or enhance natural conditions in the woodland, shoreline and marine components of Sandy Island Park so the present wildlife and fish populations are sustained.

Specific Actions:

i) recreational harvesting of shellfish will be permitted within Sandy Island Park.

ii) monitoring of hunting activities will continue to insure the validity of this recreational pursuit.

4. Cultural Resources

a) **Objective:** to protect remaining significant archaeological resources from disruptive uses.

D. Visitor Services

1. Recreation Opportunities

a) **Objective:** to encourage boat-access camping and day use, viewing, beach and shoreline recreation, upland walking and nature appreciation.

Specific Actions:

i) **Boat-Access use**
The main way to reach Sandy Island Park is by boat. During fair weather the waters off these islands and islets making up the park offer good quality boating recreation. At low tide access to the park can be achieved by foot. Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division will emphasize that boating access is the safest way to reach the park.

ii) **Viewing**
High quality viewing opportunities of Vancouver Island and Denman Island are gained from Sandy Island Park. The park is to be maintained free of visual obstructions.

2. Management Services

a) **Operations base:**
Sandy Island Park is operated as part of the Strathcona District.

b) **Promotion:**
Objective: to complement present public information media with visitor information at the main ferry access point and within Sandy Island Park.

Specific Actions:

- themes to be used in a Visitor Services Plan for Sandy Island Park include sand spit ecosystems, eolian landforms, wild life diversity, past land uses, and native indian history.

E. Plan Implementation

The actions listed below are to be implemented in the following priority:

1. initiate action to add foreshore to the park.
2. place vegetation information signs.
3. monitor hunting use.

APPENDICES

Appendix I

Fillongley, Tribune Bay, Helliwell and

Sandy Island Provincial Parks

Background Report

September 1986

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BACKGROUND REPORT

I. Fillongley Park

1. Park Profile

Fillongley Park consists of 23 hectares of upland on the east shore of Denman Island in Georgia Strait. The land was donated in 1953 for park purposes by Mr. George D. Beadnell, who resided on the property for many years. Established in 1954, the park is named after the Beadnell family's home village in England. Mr. Beadnell died in 1958 and is buried on the property.

The climate is moist with the annual 70-100 cm of precipitation falling principally between September and June. While the summer months are normally quite dry, summer temperatures are usually moderated by a cool sea breeze. Average winter temperatures are above freezing. The dominant wind direction is from the southeast.

2. Legal Information

a) General Status: Park Act, Class "A", Schedule "A" Park status over 23 hectares of upland.
The actual parkland, in keeping with the original property boundary, does not include foreshore, beach frontage, or the accreted land on the adjacent spit; the park's eastern boundary is defined by Fillongley Creek, in the lee of the spit.

b) Other Tenures: Archaeological sites are protected under Heritage Conservation Act.

c) Foreshore: The adjacent spit, with accompanying beach and considerable foreshore, is encompassed within a recreation reserve (file 1-6-3-19) of 21.4 ha.

3. Natural Resources

a) Land:

The park's terrain is generally flat and gently sloping eastward from a maximum elevation of about 23 metres. Along the northern portion of the eastern boundary there is a 40° slope to the edge of the creek or slough.

There is no exposed bedrock. The park is situated over deep sand, clay and gravel deposits of glacial or peri-glacial origin.

The spit features a predominately sandy beach of gentle gradient along its seaward side.

b) Vegetation:

(i) Park:

Except for the grounds of the Beadnell homestead, the park is dominated by mature, undisturbed forest representative of the wetter subzone of the Coastal Douglas fir Biogeoclimatic Zone. Dominate tree species include: Douglas fir, Western red cedar, Grand fir, Western hemlock, and Broadleaf maple. A clearing of approximately 1.5 hectares of grass in the central-eastern portion of the property is the homestead site. Overgrown garden trees and shrubs are distributed around the clearing. Immediately north of this clearing is a less distinct area of about 2 hectares consisting of glades, maples and fruit trees; this area was probably used as a semi-wooded pasture.

(ii) Recreation Reserve:

The upland of the spit contains some young trees, including Sitka spruce, Western red cedar and Grand fir. Grasses and sedges are common. The abundance of wild asparagus along portions of the lee side of the spit is particularly noteworthy.

c) Water:

(i) Fillongley Creek

The channel of the creek averages about 2-3 metres in width. While the creek dries to a meager trickle in summer (residual ground water), it can rise to a depth of 12-18 cm in the wetter months, and thereby provide spawning habitat for salmonid species. In the lee of the spit, the creek is virtually stagnant and is more aptly described as a slough.

Only during the wetter seasons can the creek breach the littoral sediments at the northern end of the spit and thereby empty into Lambert Channel.

(ii) Shoreline and Foreshore

The adjacent recreation reserve contains approximately 550 metres of tidal frontage and about 18 hectares of shallow tidal water within the "Georgia Strait Marine Environment".

d) Wildlife:

(i) Mammals:

No inventory has been undertaken but it is assumed that, as an undisturbed forest area with year-round freshwater, the park probably provides habitat to a somewhat higher population of typical coastal wildlife than adjacent agricultural and residential portions of the island. No special communities of species have been recorded.

(ii) Fish:

Fillongley Creek is known to provide seasonal salmonid habitat, but the existing use by and capacity for such species has not been determined.
The shallow tidal area of the recreation reserve features a variety of shellfish, including oysters, clams and mussels.

e) Cultural Resources:

(i) Archaeological:
Large middens exist along the eastern boundary of the park. Due to the creek and the shallow foreshore, this site was probably a favorite among native peoples prior to European occupation.

(ii) Historical:
The story of the Beadnell family and of George Beadnell's residence here is both interesting and typical of many people of "Old World " origin who settled in the Gulf Islands. The only remnants of the residence are the field, same garden trees and shrubs, remains of a fountain, and the grave.

4. Resources Evaluation
The purpose here is to briefly describe the significance of major park resources relative to provincial park system conservation and recreation programs.

a) Conservation Programs:
(i) Natural Landscape Representation:
-located within the "Georgia Strait Lowland and Islands" landscape.
-park's area is too limited for representation.

(ii) Marine Environment Representation:
-foreshore reserve's area is too limited to represent the "Georgia Strait Marine Environment".

(iii)Outstanding Features:
- the spit is a significant example of littoral drift as well as plant colonization.
- the old growth Douglas fir forest is a significant example of an undisturbed ecosystem of this type.
- the creek is of local significance only.
- the Beadnell homesteading story is worthy of note on-site.

- the middens are locally significant due to the loss (through development) of many other middens along Denma n Island shores.

b) Recreation Programs:

(i) Backcountry:

-park's area is too limited.

(ii) Boating:

-shoreline is not suitable to boat launching (shallow water and exposure to wind).

(iii)Road-Access:

-excellent capability for "leisure walking", beachcombing, shellfish gathering, nature appreciation, wading and sunbathing.

-primarily suited to day use, with some overnight capability.

-well situated for touring bicyclists.

(iv) Winter:

-climate is too mild for snow or ice oriented activities.

5. Existing Visitor Services and Use:

a) Facilities:

(i) Parking/Camp ing:

Located at the end of Beadnell Road is a 10-unit parking lot that is designed for overnight use. Reconstruction of this facility is required.

(ii) Toilet System:

Pit toilets are provided near the parking lot.

(iii)Trails:

Several excellent Type I and II trails originate in the southeast corner of the park and radiate westward and northwestward from here. These total about 1.5 km in length.

(iv) Freshwater:

A pump, located between the creek and Beadnell Road, provides excellent well water.

b) Management Services:

The park facilities are routinely maintained during the summer season. No other services are provided. A campground fee of $5/party-night is charged (1984).

c) Park Attendance and Visitor Activities:

(i) Campground Use:

Seasonal capacity: 1200 parties. (May 15 to Sept. 15)
Recorded use (1986): 1144 parties (95% of capacity)

(ii) Day Use:

Facility capacity: (roadside parking): 4000-5000 parties
(summer only)

Recorded use: (vehicles only, 1986): 3081 parties
(+/-50% of capacity)

(iii) Unrecorded Use:

- Walk-in camping (particularly by bicyclists) occurs both along the spit and on the north side of the creek.
- Walk-in day use: a residential area is close enough that many people may visit the park for a stroll without using vehicles.
- Horses: the beach is a local destination for horseback riders
- Trail bikes: the gentle terrain and well-groomed trails encourage trail biking, albeit an illegitimate use of the park
- "Treasure" hunting: there is much evidence of people illegally digging for old bottles (near homestead) as well as for native artifacts (along middens).

6. Planning Issues

a) Land:

The recreation reserve does not have permanent protected status, yet it contains the most significant recreational asset – the beach and sand spit.

b) Development:

What is the appropriate "optimal" level of development? Present use indicates sufficient demand for additional vehicle camping but the site may not warrant significant expansion. Further development may unnecessarily compete with private sector supply of campsites. The park is an ideal bicycle destination, yet this form of use is not recognized at present. Some Island residents have expressed concern against further development, particularly of the camping capacity. When the campground is full, day use parking is extremely limited, thereby restricting use.

Care must be taken that development does not significantly impact the old growth forest, the middens, or the fragile vegetation of the spit.

c) Management Services:

While the homestead clearing is kept mowed, there is no evidence that it receives enough use to justify this. Many overnight visitors are unaware of this clearing (ideal for family sports or picnicking) or the trails.

A "Campground Full" sign is posted at the Buckley Bay ferry lot (Vancouver Island) when appropriate.

II. Tribune Bay Park

1. Park Profile

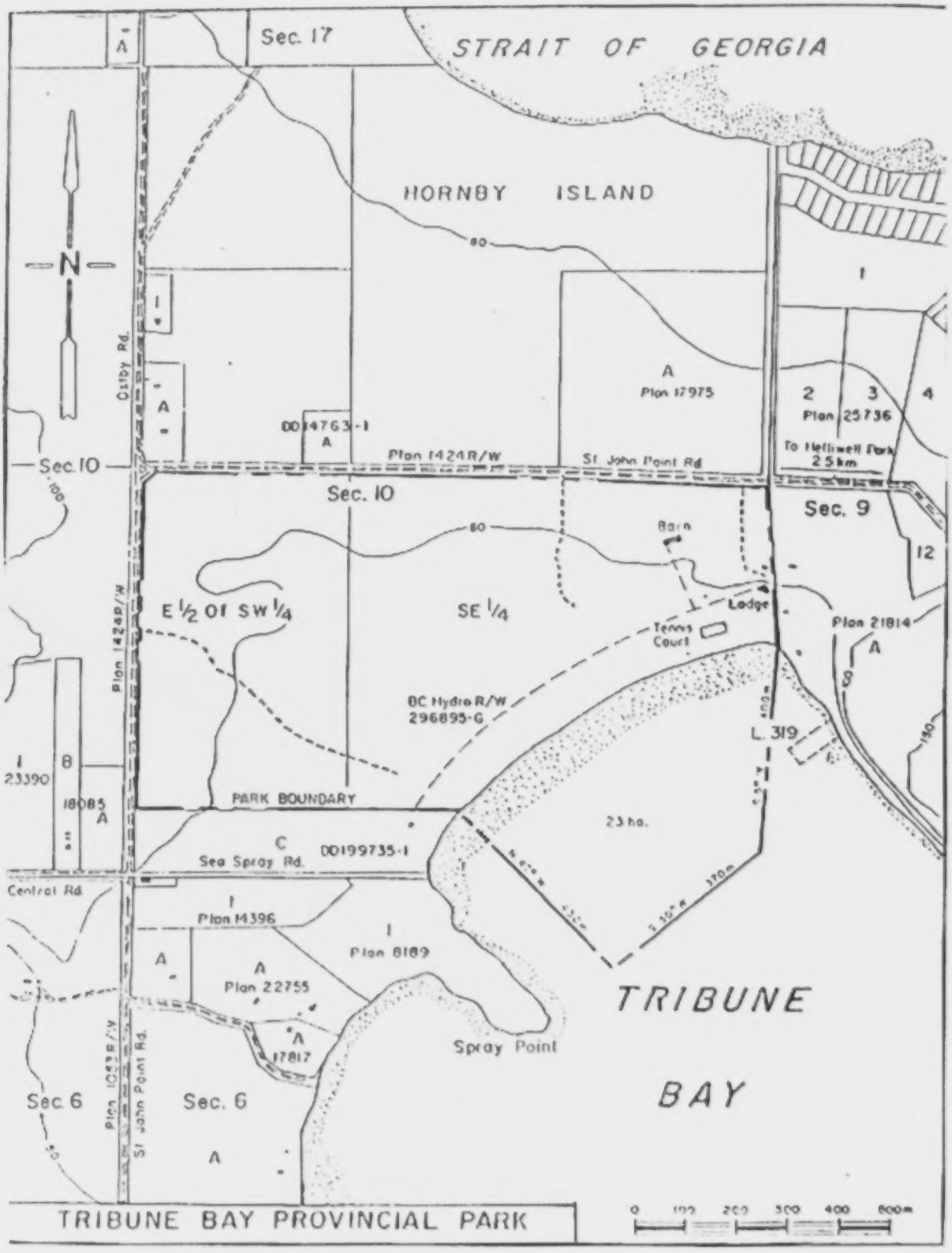
Tribune Bay Park consists of 96 hectares located in the southeast port of Hornby Island, Georgia Strait. It was established as a provincial park in 1978, after a joint purchase of the upland by the Provincial Government and the Devonian Foundation. The Devonian Foundation's half-interest in the property was conveyed to the Crown prior to establishment of the park. The climate is moist but the annual 70 – 100 an of precipitation falls mainly between September and June while the summer months are usually quite dry. Summer temperatures are usually moderated by a cool sea breeze and average winter temperatures are above freezing. Southeast winds predominate and the bay is fully exposed.

2. Legal Information

a) General Status: Park Act, Class "A" status, including 73 ha of upland (SE 1/4 and E 1/2 of SW 1/4 of Sec. 10, except Parcel "C") and 23 ha of foreshore.

b) Other Tenures:
- a B.C. Hydro right-of-way for a local power supply line traverses the near-shore portion of the property
- archaeological sites are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act.

c) Agreements and Permits: the lodge buildings and grounds, excluding tennis courts and vicinity, is operated under Park Use Permit #1295 by School Districts 69 and 71 (Qualicum and Courtenay) as an outdoor education centre. The permit has a ten-year duration with the permittee having an option to renew.


STRAIT OF GEORGIA
HORNBY ISLAND
Sec. 17
N
Osby Rd.
Sec. 10
Sec. 10
Plan 1424 R/W
St. John Point Rd
To Helliwell Park 2.5 km
Sec. 9
Barn
Lodge
Tennis Court
E ½ of SW ¼
SE ¼
Plan 1424 R/W
BC Hydro R/W 296895-G
Plan 21814
L. 319
PARK BOUNDARY
23 ha.
Sea Spray Rd.
Central Rd
Plan M396
Plan 8189
Plan 22755
Spray Point
TRIBUNE BAY
Sec. 6
Sec. 6
St. John Point Rd.
TRIBUNE BAY PROVINCIAL PARK
0 100 200 300 400 600m

3. Natural Resources

a) Land:
The terrain is generally flat, with some gentle undulations. Maximum elevation is about 20 metres along the boundaries furthest from the shoreline, and there is a gradual slope southward and eastward toward the bay.
The dominant land feature is the wide, white-sand, shallow-gradient beach that fronts the entire upland.

b) Vegetation:
Approximately 70% of the land is forested, predominantly a second- growth mixture of Coastal Douglas fir, Western red cedar, Grand fir, Western hemlock, and Broadleaf maple. Some cottonwood trees are also found on wetter sites. In general the forest is typical of a well-drained site in the wetter subzone of the Coastal Douglas fir Biogeoclimatic Zone.
About 30% of the land is open grassland, the result of past cultivation to produce hay. This grassland dominates the land adjacent to the beach and extends inland about 400 meters at its widest point. A clearing of about 1 hectare in size is situated in the centre of the property (corner to corner).
No special flora or vegetation communities have been recorded.

c) Water:
Approximately 23 hectares of shallow, sandy bottom tidal waters are contained within the park.
A small freshwater pond (50 x 25 meters) is located within the forest about 100 meters from the western boundary of the park.
A stream channel with an intermittent flow meanders across the field to the shore near the south boundary.
Groundwater is available on the property but the volumes and quality are considered low.

d) Wildlife

(i) Mammals:

No inventory of species or animals exist. Blacktail deer are the only large mammal species; the pasture, the forest cover and the closure to firearms probably encourage deer to feed and rest here. The typical variety of coastal wildlife, particularly small mammals, is likely found in Tribune Bay Park.

(ii) Birds:

No special species or communities have been recorded. The small pond probably serves migrating waterfowl. Shorebirds such as herons, gulls, and lesser yellowlegs are fairly common.

(iii) Marine Life:

In the shallow waters contained within the park, sea perch, small flatfish, and dogfish are probably common. The absence of rocks and aquatic plant life does not favour crabs. Razor clams are fairly conspicuous.

e) Cultural Resources

(i) Archaeological:

An extensive midden is located in the low-lying upland at the east end of the beach. This site would have offered the Coast Salish inhabitants the best available protection from the prevailing wind. There has been some disturbance of the site but much of it remains intact.

(ii) Historical:

The previous owners of the property operated a lodge, including a main building, several small residence buildings, a barn, a tennis court, and other associated works. While none of these are historically significant, some members of the local public have urged that the buildings not be removed.

4. Resource Evaluation

The purpose here is to briefly describe the significance of major park resources to the conservation and recreation programs of the provincial park system.

a) Conservation Programs:

(i) Natural Landscape Representation:

-park is located within the "Georgia Strait Lowland and Islands Landscape" and, while typical of a portion of this landscape, is too small to represent the range of landscape characteristics.

(ii) Marine Environment Representation:

-foreshore area is located within the "Georgia Strait Marine Environment" but is too limited in size and scope to represent this environment to any significant degree.

(iii)Outstanding Features/Resources

-the beach is of very high quality for several reasons: southern exposure, excellent sand, flat and sandy bottom of bay, length (about 800 meters), highly scenic setting and backshore, tolerable water temperature during summer.

-the midden is of local significance; it is a valued and fragile resource but is not rare or unusual.

b) Recreation Programs:

(i) Backcountry:

-the park's area is too limited to offer recreation opportunities of this type.

(ii) Boating:

Tribune Bay does not offer sheltered anchorage. In fact the bay is fully exposed to the prevailing southeast winds. It does offer temporary anchorage (day time) during periods of calm or north winds, which are fairly common conditions during summer.

(iii)Road Access:

Tribune Bay is accessible via paved roads and two small ferries from Vancouver Island. This access, combined with its excellent beach and pastoral upland, create good opportunities for beach and aquatic activities, as well as leisure walking in the upland fields and forest. There is much developable ground available for day and overnight facilities, should these be desirable.

The primary recreational constraint relates to the Hornby Island ferry service: it is a small ferry and the last sailing leaving the island is 6 p.m. on most days. This limits the feasibility of day visits and weekend camping visits from Vancouver Island.

(iv) Winter:

Climate is too mild for activities oriented to snow or ice.

5. Existing Visitor Services and Use

a) Facilities:

(i) Day Use Parking:

A double lot, with a capacity of 100 vehicles, exists at the terminus of the park access road, about 150 metres from the west end of the beach.

(ii) Day Use Area:

Pit toilets are provided in the open field in the vicinity of the west end of the beach. Also, a few Type II tables and fire rings are provided. Freshwater is supplied by a hand pump.

(iii)Old Lodge Area:

On the east side of the property, accessible from St. John's Pt. Road, are a number of buildings in various states of repair. In addition to a lodge building are several residence buildings, a tennis court, a large outdoor fireplace, and

a barn. Freshwater is supplied by a well, and the buildings have electrical service.

b) Management Services
The day use facilities are routinely maintained during the summer season. The old lodge buildings have been closed since the property was acquired for park purposes. The tennis court is fenced, used, and maintained by an association from the local community (Hornby Island Tennis Assn.) without authority from the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division.

c) Park Attendance and Visitor Activities
(i) Road access day use: Seasonal capacity: 24000 parties
(120 days x 100 sites x 2 uses/site/day)
Actual Use (1986): 21430 (May to Sept)

(ii) Boat access day use: 1263 parties

(iii)Unrecorded use:
- Walk-in day use: possibly as popular as is attendance via the formal park road and lot. Many people park on Sea Spray Road (traditional public access to the beach) or walk over from the residential and commercial campsite adjacent to the park
- Horseback riding: a traditional form of recreation, particularly along the beach
- Walk-in camping: bicyclists occasionally attempt inconspicuous camping on the east side of the property

6. Planning Issues

a) Overnight Use
Present visitation rates and visitor desires indicate that an overnight vehicle-oriented camping facility would be well-used. Tribune Bay is a well-liked destination but the accommodation and ferry limitations discourage visitation. On the other hand, a public campground would be negatively viewed as an

unnecessary development of the property, as unfair competition for private campgrounds on Hornby Island, and as adding a burden to the capacity of the ferry. An overnight facility specifically designed for bicyclists would not compete with the private sector, would not require major development, and would not create a traffic burden for the ferries. Hornby Island is well suited for touring bicyclists – good roads, sparse traffic and few hills.

b) Lodge Facilities

Local people have a strong interest in Tribune Bay and this concern is most evident with regard to the buildings of the old Lodge. Since the park was established, a number of proposals for their use have been made. In July, 1985 the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing issued a park use permit (#1295) authorizing the Courtney and Campbell River school districts the use of the Lodge buildings for outdoor education purposes. The permit ends December 31, 1993. Generally, the idea of an outdoor education center has received popular support.

c) Tennis Courts

Tribune Bay Park is one of only two provincial parks to include tennis courts. The double court facility was part of the lodge operation. In this instance, a local group (Hornby Island Tennis Assn.) has been formed to maintain the courts.

III. Helliwell Park

1. Park Profile

The land comprising Helliwell Park, 69 hectares, was donated by Mr. J. L. Helliwell for preservation as a park. The area, located on the southeastern extremity of Hornby Island, Georgia Strait, was originally pre-empted and farmed by the Acton family from 1914 to 1942. The park was established in 1966. The climate is moist but the annual 70-100 cm of precipitation falls primarily between September and June while the summer months are usually quite dry. Summer temperatures are usually moderated by a cool sea breeze and average winter temperatures are above freezing. Southeast winds lash the area much of the time.

2. Legal Information

a) General Status: Park Act, Class "A", Schedule "A" Park status, encompassing 69 ha of upland.

b) Other Tenures: archaeological sites are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act.

3. Natural Resources

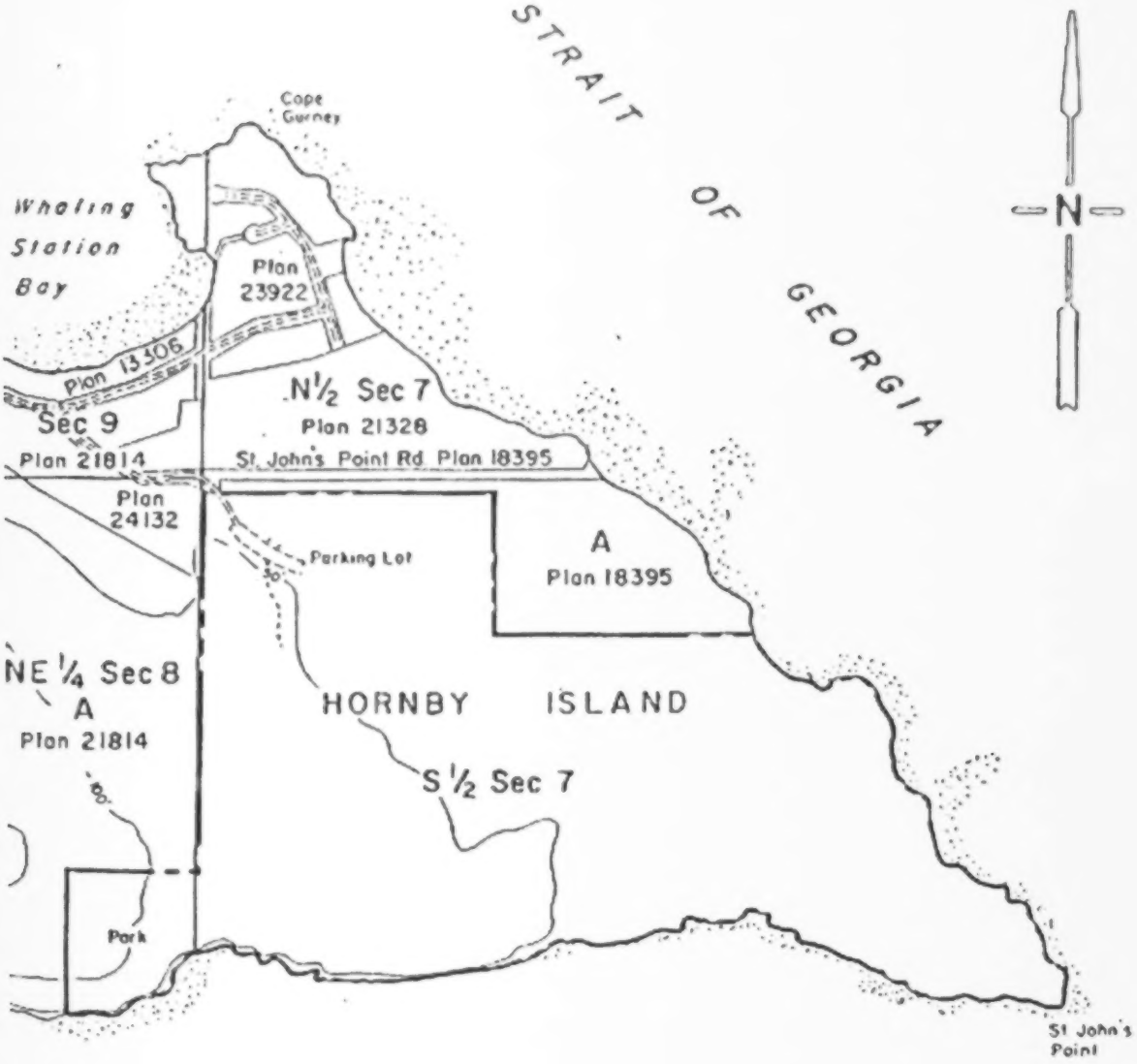
a) Land:

The park includes no foreshore but fronts onto several pocket beaches and submerged reefs.

Many of the upland boundaries are denoted by fence lines or roadways and therefore are readily apparent, but in the southwestern part of the park, boundaries are not distinct. The terrain is generally flat with a gentle slope from the southwest (30 metres a.s.l.) to the northeast shore. Vertical and overhanging bluffs of 10-15 metres dominate the southern coast.

b) Vegetation:

The park is dominated by a mature forest that is typical of the drier subzone of the Coastal Douglas fir Biogeocomatic Zone. Within this forest common trees include: Douglas fir, Pacific madrone (arbutus), and Lodgepole (shore) pine. Some wetter sites exist and here Western hemlock and Grand fir are more common. A few Garry oak are also present, but appear in poor health. There is a major stand of old growth Douglas fir in the eastern section of the park; it dominates about 40% of the park's area and has a 75 - 100 foot canopy.



HELLIWELL PROVINCIAL PARK

0 100 200 300 400 500m

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Near the coast, particularly along the southern portion, the park features an extensive grassland. This grassland is apparently the result of desication by wind, and wind blown salt-spray. The historical use as sheep pasture probably helped maintain this grassland. In addition to grasses, prickly pear cactus and spring flowers are prominent elements. With grazing no longer occurring, salal and shore pine are invading some of the more protected parts of the bluffs.

c) Water:
There are no permanent water bodies in the park although a small seasonal bog exists in the eastern part of the interior.

d) Wildlife:
No inventory has been undertaken for the park. It is assumed that, as a natural area, a characteristic complement of coast blacktail deer, various small mammals, and a variety of birds are found here. No special wildlife communities have been recorded.

e) Cultural Resources:
(i) Archaeological:
Middens are present in the park, particularly in association with the beaches of the northwest shore. These constitute a recorded archaeological site. Apparently the Acton family, when leaving the property in 1942, discarded numerous native artifacts. This indicates that middens have probably been seriously disturbed.

(ii) Historical:
The past use of the land for sheep farming is of interest but, other than a few remaining fences and cart tracks, no substantial evidence remains.

4. Resources Evaluation
The purpose of this section is to briefly describe the significance of major park resources relative to provincial park system conservation and recreation programs.

a) Conservation Programs
(i) Natural Landscape Representation:
- located within the "Georgia Strait Lowland and Islands Landscape".
- park's area is too limited for representation

(ii) Marine Environment Representation:
- no foreshore or underwater component.

(iii) Outstanding Features:
- bluffs are spectacular; excellent geologic feature, significant sea bird nesting site
- grassland is highly picturesque; good display of vegetative transition
- good example of CDF wet subzone forest
- middens are good interpretive features.

b) Recreation Programs
(i) Backcountry:
- insufficient land area

(ii) Boating:
- shoreline is not suitable

(iii)Road access:

- park is well suited to providing day use opportunities for motorists and bicyclists including: leisure walking, day hiking, viewing, nature study, sunbathing.

(iv) Winter:

- climate is too mild for snow or ice oriented activities.

5. Existing Visitor Services and Use

a) Facilities:

(i) Parking and Access Road:

- a short road, in the northwest corner of the park, leads to a rough day use parking lot capable of comfortably holding 15 vehicles.

(ii) Toilet System:

- pit toilets are provided at the parking lot and where the trail meets the northeast shore.

(iii)Trails:

- two Type I trails lead from the parking lot, one (.6 km) southwards to the bluffs, and the other eastward to the northeast shore (+/- 1 km). It is easy walking along the coastal grasslands atop the bluffs, such that an excellent circle route of about 3-4 km exists.
- Westward, along the bluffs, the Islands Trust has secured a trail easement through private land such that one can hike between Helliwell Park and Tribune Bay Park. This route is about 3 km long.

b) Management Services:

The park facilities are routinely inspected and cleaned during the summer season. No other services are provided.

c) Park Attendance and Visitor Activities:

(i) Day Use:

Facility capacity (parking): – 11000 parties (year-round)
– 4500 (during May-Sept. season)

Recorded Use (1986): 8126 parties (year-round)
about 74% of facility capacity
7174 parties (May – Sept)
159% of facility capacity

(ii) Unrecorded Use:

Walk-in day use: a residential area is close enough that many people may visit the park for a stroll without using vehicles

Horses: the area has traditionally been used for riding but current policy considers such use inappropriate.

Trail hikes: the gentle terrain and well groomed trails encourage this activity; may have an impact on vegetation and could prove hazardous (pedestrians and cliffs).

Camping: although it is discouraged, camping occasionally occurs in the parking lot or, on a walk-in basis, near the shoreline.

6. Planning Issues

a) Foreshore:

For good reason, there has been some advocacy over the past several years of adding an underwater component to the park. Apparently, the adjacent submerged areas are among Georgia Strait's most beautiful. Divers would reach the area by boat, as they now do.

Additionally, it is appropriate to consider adding the beaches to the park. No other tenures appear to exist. When the park was first established, a ten-chain foreshore strip was proposed although this figure seems entirely arbitrary.

b) Adjacent Islets:
There are two islets near St. John Point. The larger is Flora Island and is privately owned. The owner has offered to sell the property for park purposes but no formal agreement or appraisal has been undertaken. The smaller and closer islet is Crown land. It features a beach, interesting shallows, and an undisturbed cluster of spring flowering plants.

c) Appropriate Development and Uses:
The lack of freshwater is a serious limitation. The park is well used and enjoyed as a day use area with minimal facilities. The small parking lot could limit use during the peak season but there is presently no evidence of demand for a larger facility.

The existing system of trails is well used and provides good access to the park's features. Obstructions to prevent trail biking and horseback riding would be appropriate.

d) Fire Protection:
The dryness of the summer climate and the soils create a high fire hazard situation during much of the peak use season. Ironically, fire is probably a vital force in the ecosystem here, but because nearby residences could easily be destroyed, fire is not acceptable. Since establishment of the park, local residents have expressed great concern about the potential of a major conflagration induced by careless campers, picnickers, and smokers. This is a difficult management problem because of the lack of water above the cliffs, and because of the low level of management. At present, a rudimentary system, employing drums of water at a few key stations, is in place. Other options include the availability of aerial fire suppression and the proximity of saltwater that could be pumped during an emergency.

IV. Sandy Island Park

1. Park Profile

Sandy Island Park comprises four small islands containing 33 hectares, located off the north end of Denman Island. The islands include Sandy (Tree) Island and three very small islands known as the Seal Islets.

In 1966 Lots 32, 33 and 34, Nanaimo Land District, were transferred from Federal to Provincial jurisdiction. Prior to 1966 this area was under the administration and control of the Department of National Defense.

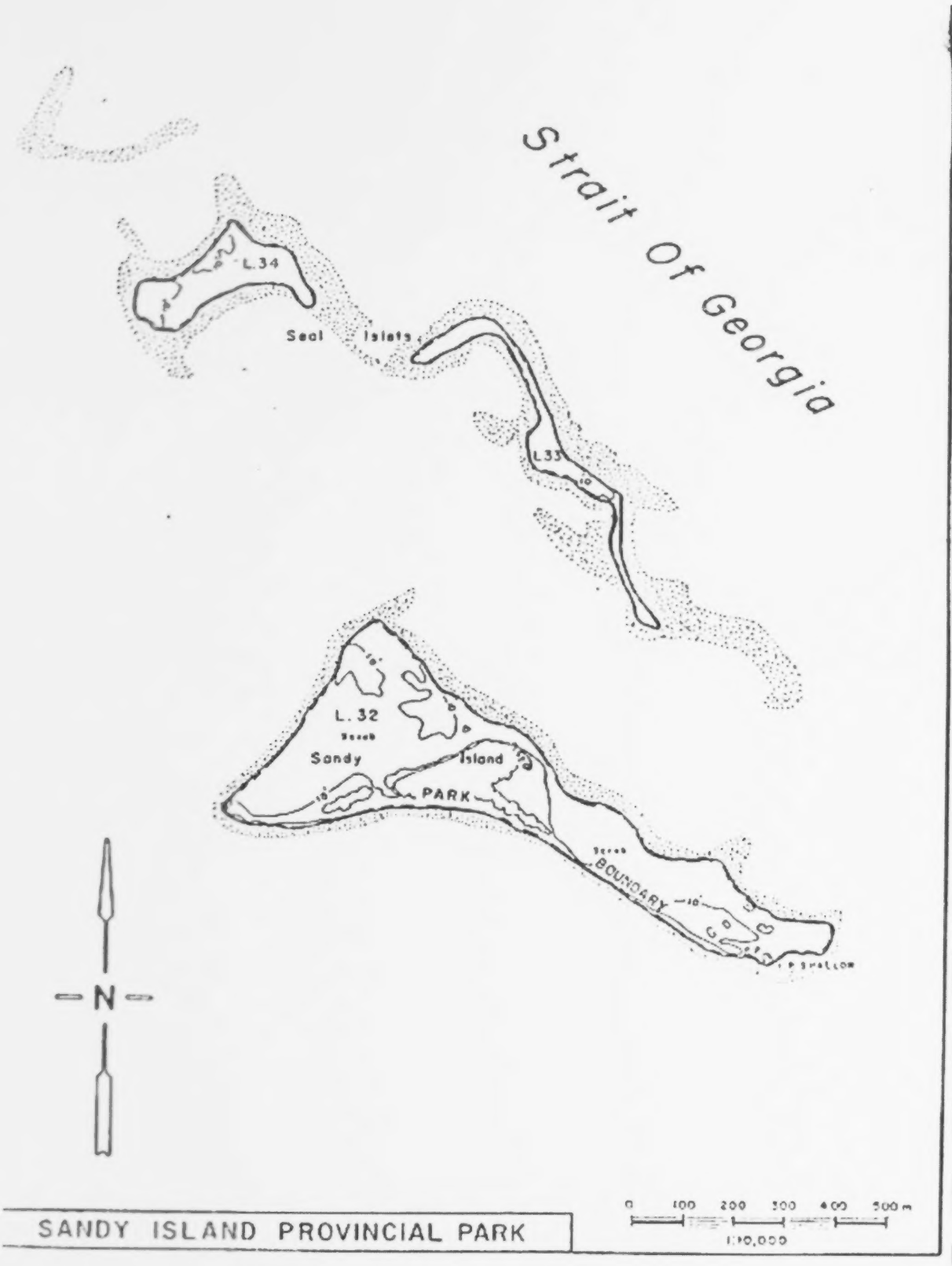
The Climate is moist with the annual 70-100 cm of precipitation falling principally between September and June. While the summer months are normally quite dry, summer temperatures are usually moderated by a cool sea breeze. Average winter temperatures are above freezing. Sandy Islard Park is unprotected from the often strong southeasterly winds which dominate this part of the Georgia Strait.

2 Legal Information

a) General Status: Park Act, Class "A", Schedule "A" Park over 33 hectares of upland. The park is legally described as Lots 32, 33 and 34, Nanaimo District.

The actual parkland includes only those lands above the high tide mark. Lands, which at low tide connect these islands to Denman Island are outside the park boundaries.

b) Other Tenures: Archaeological sites are protected under the Heritage Conservation Act.



SANDY ISLAND PROVINCIAL PARK

3. Natural Resources

a) Land

A large sand spit and mud bar formation, known as White Spit, extends over four kilometers from the north end of Denman Island. These beach deposits are a result of continuous erosion by wind and water action on cliffs, bluffs and marine deposits on both Hornby and Denman Islands, particularly the Komas Bluff area north of Fillongley Provincial Park.

Sandy Island and Seal Islets are the portions of White Spit which remain above the high water mark. These small islands are largely flat with a maximum elevation of about six meters on Sandy Island. The sand and mud bank linking Sandy Island and Longbeak Point on Denman Island dries three meters above chart datum. Sand and cobble beaches front Sandy Island and Seal Islets.

b) Vegetation

Sand spits are unusual ecosystems, often containing rare, specialized plants noted for their ability to survive in dry, exposed conditions. Two such plants found in Sandy Island Park are American Ghehnia (Ghehnia leiocarpa) and Sand Verbena (Abronia latifolia). More common vegetation found in the park include Brome grass, Oregon Grape, Nootka Rose and Cut-leaf Wormwood. In addition, the central portion of Sandy Island has shrub and tree cover consisting of Douglas fir, Grand Fir, Maple, Trembling aspen and Hawthorn.

c) Water

There is no documentation of potable fresh water in the park.

d) Wildlife

i) Mammals:
No inventory of mammals exist though the park's beaches are known as haulout areas for seals.

ii) Birds:
No inventory of bird species is available. However, it is documented that the spit is an important resting area for Brant (Brant vernicla nigricans) on their migrations. Shorebirds such as herons, gulls, sanderlings and lesser yellowlegs should be common.

iii) Marine Life:
The extensive tide flats and intertidal areas are extremely important to a wide range of marine life, especially shellfish such as clams. Common species of fish frequenting the shallow waters of the spit include sea perch, dogfishand small flatfish.

e) Cultural Resources

i) Archaeological:
Henry Bay, south of Sandy Island Park on Denman Islands, is reported to have been the location of a large summer native village in the late 1880's. The Jessup Expedition reported in 1906 of finding Indian shell heaps and cairns on Sandy Island.

ii) Historical:
Up until 1959 the park area was under the administration and control of the Federal Department of National Defence. Sandy Island Park was used for military exercises involving explosive devices, primarily during World War II.

4. Resource Evaluation

The purpose of this section is to describe the significance of major park resources to the conservation and recreation programs of the provincial park system.

a) Conservation Programs

i) Natural Landscape Representation:

- Sandy Island Park is located within the "Georgia Strait Lowland and Islands Landscape" but is too small to represent the range of landscape characteristics.

ii) Marine Environment Representation:

- the park only includes upland. The intertidal flats and that portion of White Spit below the high water mark lie outside Sandy Island Park. No representation of the marine environment is achieved.

iii) Outstanding Features/Resources:

- excellent example of littoral drift and spit landform.
- high quality sand beaches, especially on Sandy Island
- eolian landforms
- special plant communities adapted to dry, exposed environments
- wildlife diversity including waterfowl, intertidal marine life and marine mammal haulouts.

b) Recreation Programs

i) Backcountry:

- The Park does not offer recreation opportunities of this type.

ii) Boating:

- Good temporary anchorage is available to the west of Sandy Island where the sand bank drops off sharply, or south of the island with better protection from the northwest.

iii) Boat Access:

- Although Sandy Island Park can be reached from Denman Island by walking along the spit at low tide, the park is primarily accessible by boat, thus limiting public use. Recreation opportunities include beachcombing, hiking, camping, viewing, picnicking and nature appreciation. The park is open to the discharge of firearms (shotguns only) from September 4 to June 14 during a lawful hunting season. There is no longer an open season for Black Brant.

iv) Winter:

- Climate is too mild for activities oriented to snow or ice.

5. Existing Visitor Services and Use

a) Facilities

i) Camping:
There are no defined campsites in the park.

ii) Toilets:
Two pit toilets are located on Sandy Island.

iii) Other Facilities:
No other facilities are provided. Fires are permitted on the beach below the high water mark.

b) Management Services
Sandy Island Park is routinely maintained once a week during the summer months.

c) Park Attendance and Visitor Activities

i) Boat access use:
Actual use in 1985: 763 parties (July and August). It is estimated that use is equally divided between camping and day use activities. The Peak use period is from July 15 to August 15 of each year.

ii) Unrecorded use:

- hunting use: Sandy Island Park is a popular waterfowl hunting area. This use may be decreasing with the closure of Black Brant hunting.

- shellfish harvesting use: the intertidal zone surrounding Sandy Island Park is a popular traditional area for commercial clam harvesting and recreational shellfish collection.

6. Planning Issues

a) Foreshore

Consideration should be given to including a significant portion of White Spit as a Class A park under the Park Act. Protection of this special landform and representation of a significant marine environment surrounding Sandy Island Park would be achieved with Provincial Park status, while still allowing recreational and commercial harvesting of shellfish.

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Appendix 2

Denman and Hornby Islands

Outdoor Recreation Features

Inventory Report

December, 1985

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A. Introduction

As part of the master planning process for the Provincial Parks on Denman and Hornby Islands, an outdoor recreation features assessment was undertaken by Roger Norrish, Master Planning Coordinator, Victoria. The purpose of this assessment was twofold: 1) to ascertain the distribution and significance of outdoor recreation features on Hornby and Denman Islands and 2) to understand the relationship of the four Provincial parks based on the recreation features study.

The 1:50,000 recreation features mapping accompanying this text is based on earlier work done by Don Benn, Juan de Fuca Environmental consultants in 1978 for the Islands Trust. This information was updated through further fieldwork and airphoto analysis by Roger Norrish in 1985. The features mapping for this report is accompanied by a map legend for easy interpretation.

B. Outdoor Recreation Features

Denman and Hornby Islands are located about 15 kilometers south of the Courtenay-Comox urban area. These small islands are rural areas of high interest to the touring public. The shoreline of these islands provides a diversity of outdoor recreation features which attract local residents and tourists alike.

1) Denman Island

The largest of the two islands, Denman has a concentration of high quality outdoor recreation features at its north end. Henry Bay has an outstanding intertidal sand and cobble beach feature unit with significant wildlife diversity including aquatic birdlife and marine mammals. Organized camping opportunities in a parkland setting exist in the upland unit adjacent to the southwest portion of Henry Bay. This unit also contains important archaeological resources such as middens. Two feature units cover Longbeak Point north of Henry Bay. Sand beach (B^2), non-forest vegetation (E^7) and marine mammal (W^4) recreation features characterize these units of high significance.

Sandy Island and Seal Islets contain moderate to high significance feature units. Sand beach, spit formation (J^6), non-forested vegetation, viewing (V) and marine mammal features are noteworthy.

The steep backshore along the east coast of Denman Island, from Fillongley Provincial Park north to Longbeak Point, provides excellent viewing opportunities in a parkland and mixed forest (E^3) environment. The most interesting shoreline formation along this east coast is an accreting spit fronting Fillongley Provincial Park. Otherwise, the east coast is only moderately significant largely because of the rocky nature of the foreshore. Organized camping potential of moderate significance exists at Fillongley Provincial Park.

Denman Point is fronted by high quality sand and cobble beaches for about 1.5 kilometers north. Upland adjacent to the beaches from Denman Point north to Henry Bay is characterized by mixed forest cover with opportunities for organized camping.

In the interior of Denman Island and east of Denman Point, Chicadee Lake contains some moderately significant recreation features. The lake itself is an attractive small water body (M) containing a sport fishery (A^1) and wildlife diversity. Adjacent to the lake are two small upland units with good quality organized camping potential. The other lake on Denman Island – Graham Lake – is of moderate significance for canoeing, family bathing and angling activities.

The shoreline, from Metcalf Bay to beyond Repulse Point on the southwest coast of Denman Island, is important for the intertidal, sand beach and aquatic habitat (A^2) features which exist there. The upland adjacent to these beaches is highly attractive for organized camping opportunities and the pastoral landscape (P^2) setting.

2) Hornby Island

Hornby Island, which is just over half the size of Denman Island, contains a greater variety and generally higher quality of recreation features than its larger counterpart.

The outstanding recreation feature units on Hornby Island are the extensive sand beaches fronting the northwest portion of Tribune Bay. These units are ranked very high significance for the intertidal sand beaches and the viewing and family bathing recreation opportunities. The waters of Tribune Bay warm up during the summer months to allow for pleasant swimming, a rather unique situation in the generally cold waters of Georgia Strait. The upland adjacent to the main beach in Tribune Bay provides excellent opportunities for organized camping and dayuse activities. Much of the beach and upland is now contained in Tribune Bay Provincial Park.

To the east of Tribune Bay, there exist a number of highly significant outdoor recreation feature units. Extending west over a kilometer from St. John Point is a shoreland unit made noteworthy by spectacular rock formations. Behind this unit is an upland of grasslands and parkland of outstanding interest and beauty, affording superb views south and east of the Strait. To the north is a feature unit dominated by a stand of mature Douglas fir through which one can walk without encountering obstacles. Most of these important recreation features are contained within Helliwell Provincial Park.

Whaling Station Bay is another focus of highly significant outdoor recreation features. Like Tribune Bay this extensive sand beach provides excellent family beach oriented activities. However, Whaling Station Bay's northerly aspect and the subdivision development of the upland does detract somewhat from this area's attractiveness. The shoreland to the south of Whaling Station Bay is distinguished by such outdoor recreation features as rock platforms (J^5), pocket beaches (J^9), sand and cobble beaches (B^3) and wildlife diversity. The upland behind this unit contains salt marshes and high quality viewing.

South of Tribune Bay several shoreland feature units can be found. Highly interesting exposed rock platforms exist along this part of Hornby Island. Downes Point contains important archaeological features (middens) with an upland unit characterized by mixed forest cover with excellent opportunities for viewing and organized camping.

Norman Point, at the south end of Hornby Island, is the center of several high quality feature units. Rock platforms, wildlife diversity and aquatic habitat features characterize a shoreland unit extending east from Norman Point. To the northwest of Norman Point an attractive cobble beach extends to Ford Gove. The upland north of Norman Point is characterized by mixed forest cover (E^5) with excellent opportunities for organized camping. Norris Rocks, southeast of Norman Point, is a scuba diving site renowned for its diverse and plentiful marine life.

Collishaw Point, at the north end of Hornby Island, is part of a large shoreland feature unit of high significance. Structural rock formations (R^2), fossils (R^4), intertidal beach (J^4) and archaeological (H^1) features distinguish this unit.

The interior of Hornby Island is largely characterized by mixed forest cover with extensive pastoral (P^2) development patterns. Much of this area has low recreation feature significance. An exception is the Mount Geoffrey area which contains exceptional viewing opportunities in a parkland setting.

C. RECREATION USE

The attractive rural landscape, the numerous shoreland recreation features and the moderate climate combine to make Hornby and Denman Islands of considerable interest to residents and visitors in the Vancouver Island region.

Recreation use of these islands is extensive during the summer months. However, restricted access to the islands imposed by the ferry link and the general lack of recreation facility development for overnight use has kept recreation use largely oriented to dayuse activities. Private campground use, particularly on Hornby Island, is heavy during July and August.

The three upland provincial Parks – Fillongley, Helliwell and Tribune Bay – are major attractions to recreationists because of the outstanding recreation features these parks contain. But the islands also provide the general public with good quality bicycling, saltwater boating, saltwater fishing, scuba diving, hiking and viewing opportunities.

D. SUMMARY

Hornby and Denman Islands are popular tourist attractions. The shorelands of both islands contain diverse, high quality outdoor recreation features such as the sand beaches of Tribune Bay and Henry Bay, the structural rock formations fronting Helliwell Park and the tidal flats and spit formations in Sandy Island Park. The majority of the upland is characterized by rural patterns of land use. While much of this upland is of low recreation features significance, Mount Geoffrey, Helliwell Park, Chicadee Lake and Norman Point offer recreation opportunities for viewing, organized camping, hiking and nature study.

In terms of outdoor recreation features, the four Provincial Parks on Denman and Hornby Islands complement each other well. Tribune BayProvincial Park contains the most spectacular beach oriented features on these islands. In contrast, Helliwell Park is characterized by highly important upland features including grassland, mixed forest, and old growth forest. Fillongley Park offers attractive shoreland features and an upland with organized camping opportunities. Sandy Island Park is characterized by impressive sand spit formations, attractive beaches and diverse wildlife populations.

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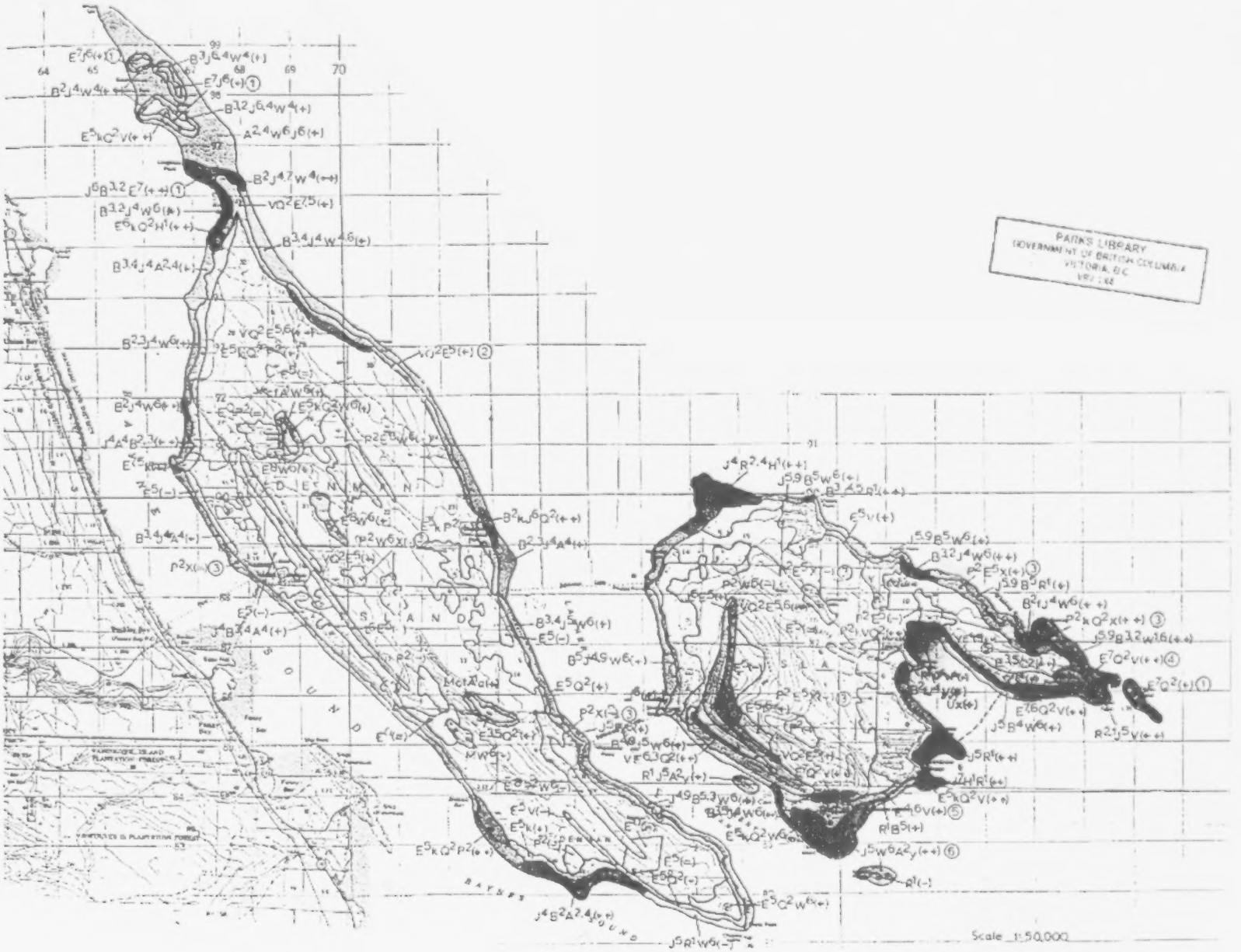

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DENMAN AND HORNBY ISLANDS
OUTDOOR RECREATION FEATURES AND FEATURE MODIFIER LEGEND

FEATURE	SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION
Aquatic	A^1	Sport fish
	A^2	Aquatic habitat
	A^4	Aquatic foods
Vegetation	E^3	Coniferous
	E^4	Deciduous
	E^5	Mixed
	E^6	Parkland
	E^7	Non-forested
Wildlife	W^1	Upland and Aquatic birds
	W^4	Marine mammals
	W^6	Wildlife diversity
Landforms	L^6	Avalanche tracks, talus, scree
Topographic patterns	Q^2	Local topographic patterns
Rock	R^1	Bedrock Exposure
	R^2	Structural rock formations
	R^4	Fossils
Viewing Site	V	Viewing
Beaches	B^2	Sand beach
	B^3	Pebble beach
	B^4	Cobble beach
	B^5	Rubble beach
Coastal	J^4	Tidal flat
	J^5	Rock platform and ledges
	J^7	Point
	J^9	Tombolo
Small Surface Waters	M	Small Surface Waters
Harbour	U	Harbour
Historic - Native Indian	H^1	Archaeological Sites
Cultural -	P^2	Pastoral landscape
Miscellaneous	X	Miscellaneous

FEATURE MODIFIER SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION
a	angling
c	canoeing
f	family bathing
k	recreation development potential
x	power boating
y	scuba diving

FEATURE SIGNIFICANCE CLASSES

SYMBOL	FEATURE SIGNIFICANCE	COLOUR
*	very high	[redacted]
++	high	
+	moderate	
-	low	
=	very low	

FEATURE ANNOTATION

The feature annotation number is found in a circle following the feature signifance symbol

1. Plant cover contains species dependent on dry, windy conditions
2. Steep backshore
3. Built up areas
4. Salt marshes and unique vegetation
5. Arbutus groves
6. Norris Rocks is the focus of scuba diving activities